



USA Softball of Northern California



2024 Junior Olympic "B" and "C" Association Championships

RULES & REGULATIONS (except 8U)

1. All games will be played under current USA Softball Rules, except where modified in these rules.
2. Championship Roster limited to 20 players.
3. All players' parents or legal guardian must sign the roster. (If player is 18 years or older, player can sign the roster). Verification of birth date for each player must be available. Players should always have their Photo ID Card with them. If not adhered to, players will be removed from the roster as per current USA Softball Code.
4. All Nor Cal USA Softball Managers, Coaches and Adult volunteers helping with any youth teams on the field and dugouts must be Background Checked, ACE and Safe sport Certified prior to stepping on the field. ACE cards must be always worn on a lanyard and visible at all times.
5. All decisions on player eligibility will be made by the Tournament Committee with appeal rights to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decision is final.
6. Current USA Softball Uniform Rules are in effect.
7. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved face mask/guard. If a chin strap is used, it must be **serviceable and worn properly**.
8. Dudley is the Official Softball of Nor Cal. 10U will use the 11" CFP. 12U and 14U the 12" CFP.
9. Game time is forfeit time. No grace period.
10. Game line-up cards must be submitted by team managers to the Plate Umpire at the Pre-Game Meeting. Line up cards must have: (a) the team's name; (b) starting players **first and last name**, number and position; and (c) substitutes who are present must be listed on the bottom with their name and number. If a substitute arrives late, she can be added to the line-up card as long as she is on the team roster. When a copy of the lineup is submitted to the Plate Umpire at the Pre-Game Meeting, it becomes official. Line-up cards are available in your manager's packet or at the tournament headquarters.
11. No infield practice will be allowed.
12. Time Limit - Games will be 1 hour and 30 minutes and finish the inning. The umpire is the official timekeeper. Time limit begins when the pitcher throws the first warm up pitch. The start of a new inning begins immediately after the third out of the previous inning is made. EXCEPTIONS: There will be no time limit in the Winners and Losers Bracket Final games in the 12U and 14U and no new inning after two hours in the Winners and Losers Bracket Final games in the 10U.
13. Run Ahead Rule – Fifteen (15) after three (3) innings, twelve (12) after four (4) innings or eight (8) after five (5) innings for **all games**.

14. Tie Breaker (TB) – If the score is tied after completion of seven (7) innings of play or after the time limit rule has been invoked, the TB will be played to determine a winning team. Starting with the top of the next inning and each inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning placed on second base.
15. Home team will be determined prior to each game by a coin toss with the team managers or their appointed representatives and tournament representative in attendance. Teams listed in the upper portion of the tournament bracket will use the third base dugout, unless the team that just played is playing again on that same field.
16. Protests - When a protest is made, play and time will be halted. The two opposing team managers, the game umpires, the Umpire-in-Chief and/or the Deputy UIC (which may be joined by an Assistant Tournament Director and/or members of the Protest Committee) will meet to discuss the protest and rule on it. The specific rule interpretation and umpire decision being protested can be appealed to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's ruling is final.
 - a. Rule interpretation protests shall only be considered prior to the next pitch, legal or illegal.
 - b. Illegal re-entry, illegal uses of D.P., and illegal substitution protests shall only be considered during the game.
17. **Managers are responsible for the conduct of their respective teams and fans.** Any players, coaches, parents, spectators or fans that use profanity, incite trouble, promote poor sportsmanship, physical retaliation or bring into question the integrity of coaches, players, umpires or tournament staff will be removed from the complex and may be removed for the whole tournament if warranted. No warnings will be given. Additionally, destruction or abuse by guests of hotel/motel property, could subject the team to suspension or other appropriate action.
18. Manager Responsibility - **If the Tournament Schedule is delayed, it shall be the responsibility of each manager to contact the Tournament Director for possible game time and/or field changes.**
19. **PLEASE NOTE** - Umpires (during games) and/or the Tournament Director (or his/her representative) shall have the responsibility of ejecting coaches, players, or spectators for abusive language or other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of USA Softball. A warning for the first offense **MAY** be issued at the Umpire's/Official's discretion. The second offense by coaches or players **SHALL** result in ejection of the responsible individual(s). Second and subsequent offenses by a spectator shall result in ejection of the (1) Head Coach, (2) coaching staff and (3) players.
20. The double safety base will be used at first base.
21. All catchers during warm ups and games must wear a mask with throat protector, approved helmet with ear flaps, shin guards which offer protection to the knee caps, and a body protector. An extended wire protector may be worn in lieu of a throat protector attached to the mask.
22. All Bats, batting helmets and catchers gear will be inspected for safety and proper USA Softball listings and will be confiscated if considered defective or not properly listed. The item will be kept until after conclusion of that team playing in the tournament. Coaches must have all equipment in front of dugout for inspection prior to every game. In addition, bat testing will be done randomly during the tournament.